UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1992/SCPM/L.1
12 February 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME
MATTERS
Special session
10-14 February 1992, New York
Item 7 of the agenda of the
Standing Committee

DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 10-14 FEBRUARY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr. Ryszard RYSINSKI (Poland)

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I. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Standing Committee for Programme Matters held an in-sessional meeting during the special session of the Governing Council convened in New York from 10 to 14 February 1992. The Vice-President of the Governing Council, H.E. Mr. Martin Adouki (Congo), served as Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland) was elected Rapporteur.

2. At its first meeting on 11 February 1992, the Standing Committee adopted its agenda and tentative schedule of work contained in document DP/1992/L.2. The Standing Committee also agreed to maintain a flexible schedule of work.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE: SPECIAL PROGRAMME RESOURCES

3. For its consideration of this subject, the Standing Committee for Programme Matters reviewed the report of the Administrator on preparations for the fifth programming cycle entitled "Special Programme Resources: programming documents" (DP/1992/7).

4. The Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Policy, Programme and Evaluation, introduced the item by referring to the extensive review process leading to the finalization of document DP/1992/7, including revisions in accordance with views expressed by delegations at previous sessions.

5. The Assistant Administrator recalled that the Governing Council had decided in September 1991 that, as an exceptional procedure, all revised documents would be considered approved on a no-objection basis. This meant that discussion would not be reopened provided that the revisions adequately reflected the views expressed by the Standing Committee. To allow members to determine whether the revisions met this requirement, a draft version had been circulated to Council members in November. Two delegations had suggested further amendments in writing. Since these amendments were considered to be of a clarifying nature rather than substantive changes, they had been distributed as a conference room paper. He proposed that, if no member objected, they should be incorporated in the final document. On this basis, he proposed that the Standing Committee recommend to the Governing Council that it approve the Special Programme Resources (SPR) programming documents contained in document DP/1992/7.

6. Many delegations commended UNDP for the work undertaken in revising the earlier proposals and in presenting programme documents which reflected their concerns in each of the areas identified for SPR support.

7. With regard to the proposed programme reserve of $10 million for category A. Disaster mitigation, the new programme proposals suggested that it be allocated equally to programmes A1. Disaster preparedness and

management, and A4. Refugees, displaced persons and returnees. This was proposed in light of General Assembly resolution 46/128 of 19 December 1991, which places emphasis on the relief to development continuum and on the importance of disaster preparedness and disaster mitigation activities, which are most closely linked to these two subcategories. One delegation considered that changes in the wording of paragraphs 78 and 80 of subcategory A4 should be revised, and this was accepted.

8. Two new programmes which had not been discussed earlier were being submitted, namely those relating to technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) (B4), and the transfer and adaptation of technology for development (B5). Many delegations commented favourably on the proposals for B4 and B5.

9. With respect to the TCDC proposal, some delegations urged that greater use be made of the modality and that additional and more diverse sources of finance and expertise be mobilized. Greater attention should also be given to follow-up and to evaluation and to using the SPR programme for promotion purposes.

10. Concerning subcategory B5. Transfer and adaptation of technology for development, the Assistant Administrator noted that the document included comments on the findings of evaluations of 32 projects undertaken in the fourth cycle with the aim of promoting the transfer of science and technology. In paragraph 80 of the document, the lessons learned were summarized, including the need for linkages between education, research and production, the role of private enterprise, the importance of sustainability and networking with both producers and users, the policy environment required for promoting human development concerns and the institutional capacities required to bring this about. One delegation suggested that the promotion of technology transfer should take into consideration existing regional and interregional networks and should give opportunities to scientific and technical expertise from developing countries to succeed. For it to succeed, it was stressed that attention should be given to identifying barriers to the participation of third world scientists in the network, and to making recommendations accordingly These suggestions were accepted for inclusion in the revised document.

11. The availability of the SPR will enable UNDP to pursue the transfer of technology and TCDC in the fifth cycle in a more systematic manner. The policy environment and agents of technological change will be the first targets for action, with particular attention to linkages with women in development, the environment and TCDC and the needs of small- and medium-scale enterprises. A working group composed of representatives of the major United Nations system specialized agencies with competence in this field had been established to draw on their expertise and achievements and to monitor jointly with them the progress in developing the technology theme.

12. The report also included the subcategory C6. Social dimensions of adjustment, which was being redesigned pending the formulation of a proposed core project in the regional programme for Africa. It would be submitted to the Standing Committee at a later date for its full consideration.

13. Most delegations endorsed the proposals and recommended their approval. They urged that the extensive debate which had taken place at the previous meeting of the Committee should not be reopened. They considered that any further views that delegations might have should be taken into consideration during implementation.

14. One delegation indicated that its comments on certain programmes, which had been made in an exchange of correspondence with UNDP, had not been incorporated into the document. They had, however, been received after the revised draft had been sent for printing. UNDP had acknowledged them in its subsequent reply and had agreed to take them into consideration in subsequent programme implementation. The delegation requested that the comments be formally added to the document.

15. Each of the programme proposals was then approved individually, under the no-objection principle. Those programmes on which comments needed to be taken into consideration were approved with the proviso that action would be taken during the subsequent process of detailed programme design and implementation.

16. Finally, one delegation commented on the need to expedite SPR programme implementation, in close consultation with the relevant agencies and the Office for Project Services (OPS); to encourage field offices to make proposals for eventual SPR funding; to take full account of the views of recipient countries; and to strengthen the regional and subregional components of the Gulf Task Force recommendations.